

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3161

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL STILL PONDERES POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 3439

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) CONTINUES DELIBERATIONS OVER FUTURE COURSE OF REVOLUTION. PROTAGONISTS IN REPUBLICA AND RADIO RENASCENCA CASES CONTINUE TO TRADE CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES IN EFFORT TO INFLUENCE RC. COPCON HAS BLAMED CATHOLICS FOR PROVOKING VIOLENCE OUTSIDE EPISCOPAL PALACE ON JUNE 18. POPULAR DEMOCRATS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SUPPORTED CHURCH POSITION, WHILE COMMUNISTS HAVE CRITICIZED BOTH SIDES. DEBATE CONTINUES OVER MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND PEOPLE. SOCIALISTS HAVE SEIZED UPON JUNE 19 RC STATE-MENT ENDORSING "PLURALISTIC PATH" IN CALLING FOR DEMONSTRATION JUNE 23 IN SUPPORT OF AFM AND PLURALISTIC APPROACH. END SUMMARY
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1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MET LATE INTO NIGHT JUNE 19; RESUMED SESSION AT 10:00 A.M. JUNE 20; AND CONTINUES DELIBERATIONS. RUMORS RE MEETING, NOW GOING AROUND FOR SECOND AND THIRD TIME, REFLECT LACK OF HARD INFORMATION.

2. REPUBLICA/RADIO RENASCENCA CASES WHICH FORM BACKDROP OF RC SESSION ARE IN ANOTHER "MORNING AFTER" STAGE. PRINCIPAL PROTAGONISTS CONTINUE TO TRADE CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES IN EFFORT TO SHAPE PUBLIC (AND MORE IMPORTANTLY AFM) INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS. MOST SIGNIFICANT PRONOUNCEMENT IN THIS REGARD IS COPCON DEFENSE OF ROLE IT PLAYED IN RESTORING ORDER FOLLOWING CLASHES OUTSIDE EPISCOPAL PALACE (SEE LISBON 3438). COPCON ISSUED STATEMENT JUNE 19 PLACING ENTIRE BLAME FOR CLASH ON CATHOLIC-ORGANIZERS OF COUNTER DEMONSTRATION. IT CHARACTERIZED COUNTER DEMONSTRATION AS PROVOCATIVE ACT AND CLAIMED THAT IRON PIPES AND SIMILAR WEAPONS FOUND ON THOSE WHO TOOK REFUGE IN EPISCOPAL PALACE.

3. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) ISSUED STATEMENT SAME DAY WHICH PLACES OPPOSITE INTERPRETATION ON EVENTS. PPD CONDEMNED VIOLENCE TO WHICH CATHOLICS SUBJECTED; REGRETTED LONG DELAY IN REACHING DECISION ON RADIO RENASCENCA DISPUTE; SUPPORTS CHURCH ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA; AND EXPRESSED GRAVE APPREHENSION FOR FUTURE OF REVOLUTION IF SUCH EXCESSES ARE PERMITTED IN ITS NAME. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) ISSUED SIMILAR STATEMENT. COMMUNISTS (PCP) HAVE ISSUED NERVOUS STATEMENT CRITICIZING DEMONSTRATORS AND COUNTER DEMONSTRATORS AND SAYING PCP HAS ALWAYS DEFENDED RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

4. ON ANOTHER LEVEL, DEBATE CONTINUES OVER MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD FOR STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND PEOPLE. SPLIT IS APPARENT AMONG THOSE ON FAR-LEFT, WITH SOME (POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION AND MORE SIGNIFICANTLY COPCON OFFICERS INCLUDING PERHAPS GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO) FAVORING LINKS BASED UPON REVOLUTIONARY COUNCILS OF WORKERS, SOLDIERS, AND SAILORS (CRTS), AND OTHERS (COMMUNIST AND FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT) SUPPORTING AN ORGANIZATION BASED UPON COMMITTEES FOR DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION (CDRS) WORKING WITH "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES. BASIC CONFIDENTIAL

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CHOICE BEING POSED, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE: WILL REVOLUTION PROCEED WITH OR WITHOUT FORMAL PARTY (I.E. SOCIALIST) PARTICIPATION? THIS IS GUT ISSUE RC IS DEBATING. WHILE OUTCOME STILL IN DOUBT, THOSE FAVORING IMMEDIATE ABOLITION OF PARTIES MAY HAVE OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND. THIS INTERPRETATION IS SUPPORTED BY CONTENT RC TEMPORIZING STATEMENT ISSUED JUNE 19 WHICH AMOUNTED TO REJECTION OF COPCON STATEMENT ISSUED PREVIOUS DAY INDIRECTLY SUPPORTING DIRECT LINKS TO PEOPLE

THROUGH CTRS (SEE LISBON 3425). SOCIALISTS HAVE SEIZED
UPON THAT PORTION OF RC STATEMENT ENDORSING "PLURALISTIC
PATH" AND HAVE SCHEDULED DEMONSTRATION JUNE 23 IN SUPPORT
OF AFM AND PLURALISTIC APPROVAL.
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